

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 03109 121738Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /084 W

-----110140 131101Z /20

R 120930Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 684

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3109

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OTRA, PEPR, SREF, SN, VN

SUBJECT: SRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN VISIT TO SINGAPORE

REF: (A) BANGKOK 19020, (B) STATE 174899, (C) SINGAPORE 2799,

(D) 77 SINGAPORE 5541

1. SRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN ARRIVED IN SINGAPORE
JULY 11 AT HEAD OF FIVE-MAN DELEGATION FOR TWO-DAY VISIT.
THIS IS PHAN HIEN'S SECOND VISIT TO SINGAPORE; FIRST ONE WAS
AS HEAD OF SRV DELEGATION IN SUMMER OF 1976.

2. REPORT OF ARRIVAL IN JULY 12 STRAITS TIME QUOTES PHAN HIEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINGAP 03109 121738Z

AS SAYING ONLY THAT PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO "EXCHANGE VIEWS ON
MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN AND THE STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS
FOR THE FREEDOM, PEACE AND STABILITY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA" AND
DECLINING FURTHER COMMENT. DELEGATION WAS MET BY MFA SENIOR
MINISTER OF STATE RAHIM ISHAK AND JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE.
ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, PHAN HIEN WILL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER
LEE KUAN YEW AND FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM, MFA SENIOR MINISTER

OF STATE LEE KHOON CHOY WILL HOST LUNCH FOR HIM, AND SRV DELEGATION WILL MEET INTRACO (GOVERNMENT BODY WHICH OVERSEES TRADE WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES) OFFICIALS AT DEPARTMENT OF TRADE. EXPECTATION THAT SRV DELEGATION WILL VISIT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ALSO MENTIONED.

3. CITING UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES, STRAITS TIMES REPORTS THAT "SINGAPORE WAS RECENTLY APPROACHED BY VIETNAM THROUGH AN ASEAN THIRD PARTY TO SET UP AN EMBASSY IN HANOI AND THAT A SUITABLE NEWLY-BUILT BUILDING IN THE DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE IN HANOI HAD BEEN FOUND TO HOUSE A SINGAPORE MISSION."

4. MFA IS BEING VERY CIRCUMSPECT ON TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH PHAN HIEN. HOWEVER, REQUEST TO EMBOFF FOR INFORMATION ON LATEST US POLICY ON INDOCHINESE BOAT REFUGEES IN ORDER TO PREPARE BRIEFING PAPER FOR PHAN HIEN VISIT INDICATES THAT REFUGEES MAY BE ON AGENDA.

5. PRIOR TO PHAN HIEN VISIT MFA OFFICIALS HAD CONFIRMED TO EMBOFFS THAT PREPARATIONS WERE CONTINUING FOR OPENING SINGAPORE TRADE OFFICE IN HANOI. ACCORDING MFA, SRV WAS INITIALLY RATHER DILATORY IN SEEKING TO OBTAIN SUITABLE QUARTERS FOR SINGAPORE MISSION BUT MORE RECENTLY HAD MADE REAL EFFORT. QUARTERS HAD BEEN FOUND AND OFFERED TO SINGAPOREANS BUT BECAUSE OF PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS MFA HAS NOT YET CONFIRMED ACCEPTABILITY OF APARTMENTS OFFERED.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 03109 121738Z

6. WHEN QUERIED WHETHER RECENT TRADE MISSION TO PHNOM PENH HAD AFFECTED RELATIONS WITH SRV, MFA POLITICAL DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA, PETER CHAN, TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOS HAS BEEN ABLE TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS BILATERALLY WITH BOTH SRV AND CAMBODIA WITHOUT ILL EFFECT ON EITHER. ON TRADE WITH CAMBODIA, CHAN SAID MFA IS IN OVERALL CHARGE BUT INTRACO IS IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT. IT IS NOW A MATTER OF WORKING OUT SHIPPING SCHEDULES, HE SAID.

7. TWO RESIDUAL INCIDENTS WHICH MIGHT HAVE CAST PALL ON PHAN HIEN VISIT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN RESOLVED. ACCORDING TO PRESS, HIJACKED VIETNAMESE FREIGHTER VAM-CO 24 (REF C) WITH 15 VIETNAMESE ON BOARD, LEFT FOR VIETNAM ON JULY 11. THREE VIETNAMESE WHO HIJACKED AIR VIETNAM AIRCRAFT IN OCTOBER 1977 RECENTLY LOST THEIR APPEAL FOR LIGHTENING OF THEIR FOURTEEN-YEAR JAIL SENTENCES (REF D).

8. COMMENT: SINGAPOREANS SEE PHAN HIEN VISIT AND OTHER MANIFESTATIONS OF MORE FAVORABLE SRV ATTITUDE TOWARD ASEAN AS BY-PRODUCT OF HANOI'S DEEPENING TROUBLES WITH CHINA RATHER THAN SUDDEN UPWELLING OF AFFECTION FOR NON-COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS.

WHILE KEEPING THEIR GUARD UP POLITICALLY, SINGAPOREANS WOULD
LIKE TO SEE TRADE RELATIONS FURTHER DEVELOPED AS FIRST STEP
TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.
INGRAHAM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP03109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780287-0030
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780768/aaaacfoi.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 68dd7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BANGKOK 19020, 78 STATE 174899, 78 SINGAPORE 2799, 77 SINGAPORE 5541
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2033567
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN VISIT TO SINGAPORE
TAGS: OTRA, PEPR, SREF, SN, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68dd7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014